

MEMORANDUM

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Memo No. 275-77
March 15, 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER McMANN

FROM: Denis Clift

DC

SUBJECT: March 18 Meeting with Senator Inouye and
SSCI

I have drafted the attached talking points for use by the Vice President during the meeting he and the Director of Central Intelligence will have with Senator Inouye this Friday.

I suggest that we discuss your ACTION PLAN paper and the talking points today, with a view to forwarding recommendations to the VP and DCI for Friday's meeting.

MORI/CDF

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH SENATOR INOUE AND
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Friday, March 18, 1977
1:30 p.m.

Introductory Remarks

1. Stan Turner and I are very pleased to have this opportunity for informal consultations on the arrangements the Executive Branch has for reporting on intelligence matters to the Congress.
2. Frederick Baron of the Attorney General's staff and Denis Clift of my staff are with us today.
3. As Director of Central Intelligence, Admiral Turner is giving very careful review to control of intelligence information in the Executive Branch.
4. The President believes as I do that the United States must have a fully effective intelligence program in keeping with our national security interests.
5. At the same time, we want to ensure the correctness and legality of that program, we want to ensure correct dissemination and control of intelligence in the Executive, and we want to ensure appropriate accountability to the Congress.

Existing Situation in the Congress

1. The Congress has constitutional responsibilities to assure that the Intelligence Community is appropriately subject to the Congressional powers of appropriations, legislation, oversight and investigation.
2. There are at present seven committees, four in the Senate and three in the House: Senate Select Committee for Intelligence, Armed Services Committee, Appropriations Committee and Foreign Relations Committee, and, in the House, the Armed Services, Appropriations and International Relations Committees.
3. There are overlapping jurisdictions on such matters as defense intelligence organizations. In the House, under House Rule 11, if one Member has access to information, any other Member has a right to request that information.

Issues Requiring Attention of the Congress

1. The Congress must itself decide how best to organize and what procedures to adopt so as to carry out Legislative Branch responsibilities in the field of intelligence.
2. In these informal consultations today, I want candidly to mention three areas of concern to us as we consider possible improvements in Executive-Legislative procedures:

- Number of Committees: We think seven committees is too many. One Joint Committee or a House Select Committee paralleling the Senate Select Committee would be preferable.
 - Protection of Sources and Methods: This is an extremely sensitive area, and procedures should be improved so that we are not faced, as in the past, with situations where staff speaking for the committee have insisted on information which should be given the most careful handling -- information which only the chairman of the committee should request in writing.
 - Third, Committee Rules on Security will require careful attention if both executive and legislative are to be satisfied that handling and control of intelligence documents is adequate.
3. I think it would be useful if Stan Turner were to comment on these points and any others that might usefully guide us in these consultations.